



## **Executive Officer's Statement**

**April 20, 2006**

---

### **April 23 to 29 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week**

The VCGCB joins Californians in marking the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Crime Victims' Rights Week April 23 to 29. The 2006 theme, "Victim's Rights: Strength in Unity," pays tribute to crime victims and survivors who, for many decades, have joined together to promote victims' rights and services. It also recognizes the ongoing efforts of victim service providers, criminal and juvenile justice professionals, and their allies who dedicate their lives to helping victims of crime.

VCGCB employees participate in many of the diverse activities hosted by agencies and organizations across the state in honor of this occasion. A few of the events planned are listed below:

Tuesday, April 18, 2006

- The San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office hosted a Mental Health Providers' Appreciation Breakfast. The event will include training and updates on the Victim Compensation Program.
- The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office held a Victims' Rights Recognition Ceremony.

Sunday, April 23, 2006

- The City of Los Angeles is sponsoring a 5K Run/Walk for Victims' Rights.

Monday, April 24, 2006

- The Honorable Lois Haight will be the guest speaker at the Ribbons of Hope 2006 Crime Victims' Awareness Luncheon in Nevada County.
- The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Victims' March on the Capitol will occur in Sacramento.

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

- The Riverside County District Attorney's Office is holding a Victims' Rights Awards Luncheon.
- The Tuolumne County Victim Witness Assistance Center will host a Victims' Rights Recognition Ceremony.
- The Monterey County District Attorney's Office Victims of Crime Unit and the Community Restorative Justice Commission will hold the 7th Annual Victim's Dedication Ceremony.
- The Sonoma County Victim Witness Assistance Center is sponsoring their third annual Victims' Rights Week Luncheon.

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

- The San Francisco County District Attorney's Victim Services Division will host the District Attorney's Justice Awards Ceremony.

Thursday, April 27 2006

- A Victims' Rights Luncheon is being sponsored by the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office.
- Victims' Rights Week Candlelight Vigils will occur in Sonoma and Nevada Counties.

Friday, April 28, 2006

- The Nevada County District Attorney's Office will unveil a Victims' Photographic Memorial Wall.
- The Tulare County District Attorney's Office will host an unveiling ceremony for their Victims' Memorial Quilt.
- The Attorney General's Office of Victims' Services Annual Crime Victims' Conference will take place in Sacramento.
- The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office will hold a Victim Summit for leaders of local grassroots and community-based victim rights groups to network and share resources.

### **State Compensation Programs Meet at Western Regional Conference**

Ted Boughton, VCGCB Deputy Executive Officer for the Victim Compensation Program, attended the Western Regional Conference of the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards March 27 through March 29 in Utah. Representatives from 11 compensation programs gathered to discuss emerging issues and trends in the field. Major topics discussed included claims process system implementation efforts in various states, application of fee schedules, ways to increase public awareness of compensation, efforts to improve coordination among victim service programs and recent developments regarding the VOCA rescission proposal. In all of these areas, other states were very interested in California's activities.

### **VCGCB Updates**

The VCGCB staffed an information booth at the California Psychological Association Convention on March 25 and 26 in San Francisco. This outreach effort presented an opportunity to answer questions about the recent changes in mental health session limits and payment rates and to distribute the VCGCB publications to hundreds of licensed psychologists.

Employees from the Restitution Unit in the Revenue Recovery and Accounting Division provided training to the following:

- 20 probation officers in Ventura County on March 30;
- 65 Deputy District Attorneys in Contra Costa County on March 31; and
- 180 probation officers in San Diego on April 17, 18 and 19.

The VCGCB also hosted a restitution law training for new Criminal Restitution Compact Specialists and restitution analysts on March 20 in Sacramento.